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FOWEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT



OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1958

To :-

THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS
OF THE BOROUGH OF FOWEY.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report for
the year 1958.

The vital records, when considered on a five year
average, are reasonably satisfactory but the birth rate continues
to be low.

I am indebted to Mr. Little of Fowey Grammar
School for the weather report and to Mr. Birkett, Public Health
Inspector, for other portions of this Report.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

JAS. TURNER,

Medical Officer of Health.

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres)	...	...	2,979
Population (mid year)	...	...	2,290
Number of inhabited houses	...	...	992
Rateable Value	...	...	£31,311
Product of Penny Rate	...	...	£118 18s. 4d.

Live Births	Male	Female	Total	Rate/1000 Fowey	Rate/1000 Population England & Wales
Legitimate	15	10	26	11.3	
Illegitimate		1			
For comparison with U.K., corrected for age and sex distribution				12.0	16.4

Still Births	0	1	1	Rate/1000	Total Births
				37.1	21.6

Total Live and Still Births 27

Infant Deaths 1

Infant Mortality	Total	1	Rate/1000	Rate/1000 Live Births
	Legitimate	1	38.5	22.5
	Illegitimate	0	40.0	—
Neo-Natal (First four weeks)		0	0	—
		0	0	16.2

Illegitimate live births per cent of to live births 4

Maternal Deaths	0
„ Mortality Rate/1000 Live and Still Births	0
	0.43

Deaths	20	16	36	Rate/1000	Rate/1000 Population
				15.7	
Corrected for age & sex distribution				13.5	11.7

The following table gives the percentage distribution of ages at death :

Age Group	Percentage Dying Males	Percentage Dying Females
0 - 1	1.5	2.7
1 - 59	24.1	20.5
60 - 69	18.2	17.8
70 - 79	29.9	28.6
80 - 89	24.1	25.0
90 and over	2.2	5.4

The following is a list of the causes of death :

	Male	Female	Total
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory ...	0	0	0
2. „ other ...	0	0	0
3. Syphilitic disease ...	0	0	0
4. Diphtheria ...	0	0	0
5. Whooping cough ...	0	0	0
6. Meningococcal infections ...	0	0	0
7. Acute poliomyelitis ...	0	0	0
8. Measles ...	0	0	0
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	0	0	0
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	0	0	0
11. „ „ lung, bronchus	1	0	1
12. „ „ breast	0	0	0
13. „ „ uterus	0	1	1
14. Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	3	0	3
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia ...	0	0	0
16. Diabetes ...	0	0	0
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	2	4	6
18. Coronary disease, angina ...	7	3	10
19. Hypertension with heart disease	0	1	1
20. Other heart disease... ...	3	1	4
21. Other circulatory diseases ...	0	0	0
22. Influenza ...	0	0	0
23. Pneumonia ...	1	0	1
24. Bronchitis ...	1	1	2
25. Other diseases of the respiratory system	0	0	0
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	0	1	1
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	0	0	0
28. Nephritis, and nephrosis ...	0	0	0
29. Hyperplasia of prostate ...	0	0	0
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	0	0	0
31. Congenital malformations ...	0	0	0
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	1	3	4
33. Motor vehicle accidents ...	0	1	1
34. All other accidents ...	1	0	1
35. Suicide ...	0	0	0
36. Homicide and operations of war	0	0	0
All causes :	20	16	36

The single infant death was a male aged 5 months. The cause was broncho-pneumonia.

SECTION A.

Area (2,979 acres) The district consists of the estuarine Town of Fowey, the Hamlets of Newtown, Polkerris and Polmear, and a large rural background. China Clay is exported from the Port in large quantities, and the Town is yearly increasing in popularity as a Seaside Resort, for Summer visitors. These two combine to make the principle industries.

Population. The Registrar General's population figure for 1958 was 2,290. The temporary Summer population is estimated to add another 3,000.

Number of Inhabited Houses. The number of inhabited houses is 992. The rateable value is £31,311, giving a penny rate of £118 18s. 4d.

Meteorological Data.

1958	Mean Max.	Abs. Mean	Extreme		Raindays		Total	Other factors	Comments
	Min.	Diff. f'm Av.	Daily		Wet days		Rain		
	of	of	Temps.		Greatest		Diff.		
	of	of	of		in.		in.		
Jan.	48.5 38.6	43.4 -0.8	57 24	6th 23rd	24 0.7+	18 5th	4.87 +0.89	Snow lying 5 days Gale 1 day Hail 4 days, Fog 2	Much Northerly wind
Feb.	51.7 41.6	46.5 +2.5	58 30	20th 18th	18 0.65	12 6th	+5.1 +1.61	Snow 4 days Hail 1 day, Fog 1	Much SW & W wind mild, no v cold spells
Mar.	47.6 38.2	42.9 -2.1	55 26	2nd 10th	22 0.73	15 7th	3.18 +0.42	Snow 5 dys, lying 3 Hail 2 days, Fog 1	Rather cloudy, cool Much wind from N, E and SE
April	53.6 41.6	47.6 -1.4	65 30	30th 4th	6 0.63	3 25th	0.98 -1.21		Cool, winds from N sector NW to E
May	57.8 47.6	52.7 -1.3	67 40	1st various	14 0.83	12 15th	3.13 +0.69	Fog 3 days	SW winds predomin- inant, cloudy, rainy
June	62.3 51.8	57.1 -0.9	69 45	17th 24th	14 1.01	11 27th	3.26 +1.31	Fog 2 days SE gale on 25th	Cyclonic winds SE to NW, cool, rainy
July	65.3 55.3	60.3 -0.7	74 45	8th 24th	15 1.01	10 27th	3.25 +0.64	Thunderstorm 1 day	Unsettled, Much Cloud
Aug.	65.2 56.5	60.8 -0.2	69 49	15th 26th	23 1.10	10 6th	6.32 +3.40	Thunder'm 2 days Fog 3 days Gale 1 day	Rather cool, exception'ly stormy & wet, pred. SW w
Sept.	64.8 54.9	59.9 +0.9	69 47	10th 21st	16 2.08	16 2nd	54.6 +2.76	Thunder'm 3 days Fog 2 days	Rather cloudy, winds SE to SW
Oct	60.5 49.6	55.0 -1.2	66 39	1st 18th	14 0.47	13 2nd	2.57 -1.22	Hail 1 day Fog 1 day	Normal October weather
Nov.	53.8 43.2	48.5 +0.5	60 31	6th 11th	15 0.80	11 4th	2.93 -1.31	Gale 1 day	Winds mainly SW to NW clouds,
Dec.	50.4 39.1	44.7 -0.3	55 30	19th 5th	22 0.57	18 17th	5.54 +1.38	Gale 2 days	Cool, dry start to W and rainv later

SUMMARY : The summer was expectionally wet and the days cloudy and cool.
The total rainfall, 46 inches has only been exceeded twice in 50 years.

SECTION B

Public Health Officers

- (a) Medical Officer of Health: J. C. S. TURNER, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
1/1 58 - 31/12 58 Tel. Par 2206
Area Health Office,
Moorland Road, St. Austell.
- (b) Public Health Inspector (part time):
A. AINLEY, A.F.S., M.R.S.I. 1/1/58 - 30 3/58
A. J. BIRKETT, M.R.S.I. 1/5 58 - 31/12 58

Laboratory Facilities

All investigations are carried out at the Royal Cornwall Infirmary, Truro, where material is sent for investigation.

Prophylaxis of Infections Disease

In addition to the usual diphtheria prophylactics, supplies of whooping cough vaccine and of tetanus toxoid are available in various combinations and can be obtained by Medical Practitioners at the Area Office, St. Austell. Poliomyelitis vaccine is now available in quantity.

Nursing in the home

There is one District Nurse - Midwife - Health Visitor for the area.

Domestic Health Service

The establishment is the equivalent of two full-time helps. A total of 17 persons were aided, of whom 4 were maternity cases.

Maternity and Child Welfare

All mothers and children are visited in their homes by the Nurse. Expectant mothers attend the Clinic in St. Austell.

Hospitals

The Town has a small 13 bedded hospital. Patients requiring specialised treatment go to the Royal Cornwall Infirmary in Truro, or to Redruth.

Clinics

Practically all the special clinics are held in St. Austell, either at the hospital or at Moorland Road.

SECTION C.

Water

Owing to the very wet Summer season there was no shortage of water, although in the late Spring a short drought occasioned the need for temporary restrictions in the use of water within the Borough.

The sources of supply have not been augmented during the year, and chlorination has been continued.

Drainage

All sewers discharge into the tidal estuary. Many of these outfalls are defective, badly constructed or broken. It is contemplated to link up the many outfalls by means of a contour sewer built at the foot of the Harbour wall, and to provide a limited number of new outfalls at suitable points where the river bed is stable, and where the tidal pull is most effective. Certain essential repairs to sewers at Whitehouse, Point Neptune and Readymoney are to be carried out in 1959.

Public Cleansing

No change in the collection from the previous year of household and trade refuse. Street cleansing is carried out regularly.

Disinfections Nil.

Rodent Control

During the year a Council workman was trained in Rodent Control work, and has since carried out systematic inspection and treatment of the Borough. No major infestations were found.

Conveniences.

8 public conveniences serve the Borough.

SECTION D. HOUSING

Slum Clearance

No new houses were built for the purpose of re-housing families from unfit properties. By the end of the year a scheme was being considered for the provision of four single person dwellings at the Windmill Estate. Efforts were made to force a decision as to the future of the Rashleigh Almshouses, Cobbs Well, but no definite progress was made.

New Houses

3 new houses were in the course of construction at the end of the year. (Private enterprise)

Repairs and Re-conditioning

The Council made no grants for improvement of old and sub-standard property during the year. Considerable private repair work was done on existing properties.

SECTION E.

Milk

The Borough is a designated area and only bottled pasteurised or T.T. milk may be sold.

Ice Cream

There are 19 Retailers. There are no manufacturers in the Borough.

Meat

There are no slaughterhouses in the District.

Food Premises

There were approximately 80 inspections and visits to registered food premises. Co-operation was good, but there is room for improvement in the standard of cleanliness generally.

Condemned Foodstuffs

120 lbs. 15 ozs of various canned meats were condemned during the year as unfit for human consumption.

SECTION F

Prevalence of and Control over Infectious and other diseases.

DISEASE	No. OF CASES	Rate/1000 population		
		FOWEY	BOROUGH	ENGLAND & WALES
	1958	1957	1958	1958
Measles ...	3	7.5	1.3	5.5
Acute Pneumonia	1	0.0	0.4	0.5

It will be seen that there were practically no infectious diseases during the year. This group of diseases has ceased to play a major part as a cause of death in children and a greatly reduced part in morbidity.

Smallpox Vaccination. During the year there were 23 primary and 6 re-vaccinations.

Diphtheria Immunisation

The following table gives the number of children at 31st December, 1958, who had completed a course of immunisation at any time before that date (i.e. at any time since 1st January, 1944).

Age at 31/12/58 i.e. born in year	under 1 1958	1 - 4 1957-54	5 - 9 1953-44	10 - 14 1948-49	under 15 Total
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Last complete course of
injections whether
primary or booster

1953-1957	4	65	120	63	252
1951 or earlier	0	0	34	124	158

Estimated mid-year
population

	25	76	297	398
Immunity Index	16.0	85.5	53.2	63.4

During the year the following immunisations were carried out:-

Primary	Diphtheria and Whooping Cough	24
Boosters	Diphtheria	14

These figures indicate a satisfactory immune state in the younger children. In the children over the age of 5 years, the level of group immunity is much too low.

Tuberculosis The total number of cases on the register at 31st December 1958 was as follows:- (the figures in brackets are those for 1957)

		Male	Female	Total
Pulmonary	...	11 (10)	10 (12)	21 (22)
Non-pulmonary	...	1 (1)	2 (2)	3 (3)

There were no new cases arising in Fowey and no deaths during 1958.

The change in numbers on the register is accounted for by the inward transfer of one male and the recovery of two females.

The scheme for the protection of the 13 year old children was continued with the following results :-

Number skin tested	...	97	
Number Reactors	...	18	(18.5%)
Number given B.C.G. Vaccine	79		
Number X-rayed	...	93	(Nothing abnormal found)

Poliomyelitis Vaccination.

Vaccine supplies increased during 1958 and 148 children have completed a course of three injections. A very much larger number have received either one or two injections. The offer of immunisation has been extended to include all persons up to the age of 26 years.

FACTORIES ACT 1937 and 1948.

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including visits made by the Public Health Inspector)

PREMISES	No. on Register	Inspections	Written Notices Occupiers prosecuted
I. Factories in which sections I, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by local authorities	3	6	—
II. Factories not included in (I) in which section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	10	15	—
TOTAL	13	21	—

2. Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	by H.M. Inspector	No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted Remedies by informal action
Want of cleanliness (S.)	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	—	—	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	—	—	—	—	—

